

Hans Zinsser, professor of bacteriology and immunity at Harvard, has attempted to do, and, in our judgment, with a great measure of success. We have carefully read through his book and can strongly recommend it as an authoritative work. On every page are the signs of extensive acquaintance with the literature, and from all the wealth of details and contradictions of the latter, he has succeeded in creating a readable account of what must prove a fascinating subject of study to all.

W. B.

*Continuous Current Circuits and Machinery.* By Prof. J. H. Morecroft and Prof. F. W. Hehre. Vol. 1. Pp. viii+467. (New York: J. Wiley and Sons, Inc.; London: Chapman and Hall, Ltd., 1923.) 20s. net.

THIS book is designed primarily for the use of students in engineering schools. An elementary knowledge of physics and mathematics is all that is demanded of the reader, and yet a good introduction is given to practical engineering calculations and methods. The authors begin by a brief description of the electron theory, as many of the phenomena described follow readily when this theory is adopted. Some of the sentences, however, may well puzzle the beginner. "This shortage of electrons at the end of the rod constitutes the positive charge at this end." The positive charge, therefore, seems to have no real existence. Similarly we are told that a negative charge can exist in a perfect vacuum. It, also, can have little real existence. This is better, however, than talking about positive and negative fluids.

Following a prevalent practice among engineers, the authors seem to make little distinction between magnetic induction and magnetic force. A *gauss* is defined as a *maxwell* per square centimetre. It is better to define the maxwell as the unit line or tube of magnetic induction and not as a line of force. Many useful examples in electrical engineering are given, and the student who works through them all will have made good progress in becoming a qualified electrical engineer. We regard this as a book suitable for first and second year students at a technical college and can recommend it as such.

*A Bibliography of Sir Thomas Browne, Kt., M.D.* By Geoffrey Keynes. Pp. xii+255+5 plates. (Cambridge: At the University Press, 1924.) 42s. net.

THIS handsome volume, of which only five hundred copies have been issued, is dedicated to the memory of Sir William Osler, who was one of the most enthusiastic admirers of Sir Thomas Browne. The work consists of twelve sections, the first ten of which are devoted to the bibliography of Sir Thomas Browne's writings, and the last two to the bibliography of biography and criticism and the sale catalogue of Sir Thomas Browne's library, all but two of the sections being preceded by a bibliographical preface. There are four appendices containing the bibliographies of imitators of "Religio Medici" and "Vulgar Errors," and of the works of Dr. Edward Browne, Sir Thomas's eldest son, and an account of Simon Wilkin, the Norwich publisher and editor of Sir Thomas Browne's works. The text is interspersed with reproductions of

the MS. and title pages of early copies of "Religio Medici," "Hydrotaphia," "Christian Morals," and other works. There are two fine portraits, the first, which serves as a frontispiece, being that of Sir Thomas and his wife, Dame Dorothy Browne, by an unknown artist, and the other that of Simon Wilkin.

Mr. Geoffrey Keynes, who is attached to the surgical unit of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, is to be congratulated on his scholarly achievement, on which, as we learn from the preface, he has been engaged for sixteen years. It will rank next to Wilkin's classical edition as the most important contribution to the literature of Sir Thomas Browne's works.

*History of the Great War: Based on Official Documents. Medical Services General History. Vol. 4: Medical Services during the Operations on the Gallipoli Peninsula; in Macedonia; in Mesopotamia and North-West Persia; in East Africa; in the Aden Protectorate, and in North Russia. Ambulance Transport during the War.* By Maj.-Gen. Sir W. G. Macpherson and Maj. T. J. Mitchell. Pp. xvi+711. (London: H.M. Stationery Office, 1924.) 25s. net.

THIS is the final volume of the general history of the Medical Services during the War, and is perhaps the most readable. The ground covered is adequately expressed in the title. The book shows the great and varied difficulties which had to be contended with, and while it is clear that towards the end of the campaigns the problems were mastered to a certain extent, there were deplorable breakdowns in the Dardanelles, Mesopotamia, and East Africa, some being so notorious as to lead to Parliamentary inquiries. These disasters are attributed mostly to lack of preparation before the campaigns started, but the editors, naturally perhaps, do not commit themselves to an exact statement as to the rank and position of those actually concerned. They admit, however, that "in some respects the administration of the Medical Services was a factor in the breakdowns."

*Introduction to Modern Philosophy.* By C. E. M. Joad. (The World's Manuals.) Pp. 112+4 plates. (London: Oxford University Press, 1924.) 2s. 6d. net.

MR. JOAD's little volume is clearly written and gives a short outline of the present tendencies in modern philosophic thought. It contains chapters on the difference between idealism and realism, Mr. Bertrand Russell, Croce and Gentile, pragmatism, and finally Bergson. At the end of each chapter is a criticism of each system. The work is rather too short to be of much use to scholars, but it ought to fulfil admirably the purpose for which it is written, namely, to present to non-professional readers the works of the professional writers.

*Physikalische Chemie der Zelle und der Gewebe.* Von Prof. Dr. Rudolf Höber. Fünfte, neubearbeitete Auflage. Hälfte 2. Pp. v+545-906+xi-xvi. (Leipzig: Wilhelm Engelmann, 1924.) 12 gold marks.

THE second half of this volume, of which the preceding part was noticed in these columns on July 21, 1923 (vol. 112, p. 93), has been received. It contains the remaining Chapters viii. to xii. of the new edition.